

Amendments to the Specification

Please add a new paragraph after paragraph [0021] as follows:

Fig. 6 is a representation presentation of the cross section of another embodiment of the invention where the foam material of the first and second elements is stacked in layers.

[0023] The device of Fig. 1 includes a first floatation element, that is a first hoop 12, defining, in this preferred embodiment a horizontal U-shaped form. An outer cover 14 contains a flotation component, in this case, a tube of closed cell flexible foam, shown as 16 in Fig 2. The tube comprising the floatation element, in the prototype constructed by the applicant, is made from a water toy known, somewhat generically, as a "noodle." It is expected that other cross sectional shapes will perform in an acceptable manner, for instance, in addition to the round cross section shown, a rectangular, square, or oblong cross sectional shapes are all contemplated. The selection of the shape will be determined by an applications engineer having experience in personal floatation devices based on the need for a certain degree of flotation in conjunction with packaging and "fit-up" considerations. For instance, Fig. 6 shows a generally square cross sectional embodiment wherein the foam material 16 a-c is stacked in layers to form the first element or hoop 12 and second element or hoop 20. An outer cover 14a may surround the layers of foam.

Please add a new paragraph after paragraph 25 as follows:

As an alternative to the foam filled outer cover the inventor also contemplates the use of an inflatable bladder 14b as represented in Fig. 7 which is a pictorial cross section of the first element of the device. In this embodiment the floatation enhancing media is an air-tight bladder.

[0033] An alternative embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 1 is presented as Fig. 5. This embodiment incorporates all the features of the Fig. 1 embodiment with the

exception of having a split upper hoop 20 of Fig. 1. In Fig. 5 the hoop is truncated into two parts, a left side portion 21 and a right side portion 23. These two elements are connected by a web or strap 25 which is ~~sew~~ sewn or otherwise attached to the left and right side portions. The strap 25 provides continuity between the left and right side portions. In certain situations it is advantageous to reduce the bulk, comprised of the flotation material, at the top of the center hoop so that when the device is attached to the hoop of the child carrier the structural handle of the carrier can be easily grasped. In some cases, for instance where the child carrier has a handle of significant girth, it is cumbersome if the handle and the flotation hoop both have to fit into the grasping hand of the person carrying the child carrier.